



Missouri Department of Higher Education

Building Missouri's future...by degrees

June 30, 2011

Dr. Bruce Speck, President
Missouri Southern State University
3950 East Newman Road
Joplin, MO 64801-1595

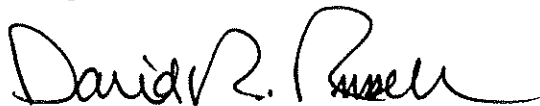
Dear President Speck: 

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter of June 23, 2011, which informed me that the Missouri Southern State University Board of Governors has considered and declined my appeal to voluntarily reduce the size of their tuition rate decision for Academic Year 2011-2012. The effect of such a reduction would have been to bring MSSU's tuition more in line with increases adopted by the other public four-year institutions and minimize the financial impact on students returning to campus after the May 22 tornado.

While I am disappointed that the decision of the MSSU board could not be more favorable, I am mindful of Governor Nixon's decision not to impose additional withholdings on MSSU's appropriation in FY12 consistent with his determination to facilitate the area's recovery from the tragic effects of the disaster. Accordingly, although the size of your institution's tuition increase does not appear to be warranted, to be consistent with the governor's decision I have decided not to impose a penalty on MSSU in accordance with the provisions of HESFA.

Best wishes to you, the staff and faculty, and students who are working so hard to rebuild their lives during this difficult time.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David R. Russell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the last name "Russell" being more prominent.

David R. Russell, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Higher Education